

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01

SAB-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05

OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 USSS-00 EB-07 /111 W

----- 027647

R 241504Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8005

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STUTTGART FOR ELG

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: BRIEF OUTBREAK OF FIRING IN AIN RUMMANEH/SHIA CONTROLLED
BY GOL SECURITY FORCES

REF: BEIRUT 7048

1. GOL INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (FSI) REACTED QUICKLY TO OUT-
BREAK OF FIRING LAST NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING JUNE 24 IN AIN
RUMANNEH/SHIAH AREA, APPARENTLY RESTORING UNEASY CALM.
ACCORDING TO GOL SOURCES, FLARE-UP WAS KICKED OFF SOMETIME
DURING NIGHT BY SMALL GROUP ON ROOFTOP IN AIN RUMANNEH WHICH
FIRED TWO RPG ROCKETS AGAINST FSI ARMORED CAR. BOTH
ROCKETS MISSED THEIR TARGET AND ARMORED CAR RESPONDED WITH
SINGLE 75 MM ROUND WHICH KILLED ONE ATTACKER AND SERIOUSLY
WOUNDED THREE OTHERS. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 24, NONE
OF WOUNDED HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

2. INCIDENT APPARENTLY CREATED DEGREE OF PANIC AMONG NEARBY
RESIDENTS AND FIRING FOLLOWED UNTIL EARLY THIS MORNING. FSI
HAS REPORTEDLY QUELLED OUTBREAK, ALTHOUGH IT OUR UNDERSTAND-
ING THAT GOL STILL CAUTIONING RESIDENT TO AVOID USING MAIN
ROAD THROUGH SHIAH. NEWSPAPERS APPEARING HERE THIS MORNING
ATTRIBUTED TENSIONS IN NEIGHBORHOOD TO INCIDENT JUNE 23 IN
WHICH TWO IRAQI NATIONALS WERE ATTACKED AND BEATEN IN AIN
RUMANNEH, BUT VERSIONS OF THIS STORY ARE CONFLICTING. WHILE
FIRING WAS GOING ON THIS MORNING IN AIN RUMANNEH/SHIAH, WE
RECEIVED REPORTS FROM SOME GOL OFFICIAL THAT BARRICADES
AND CHECKPOINT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MOSLEM CORNICHE
MAZRA'. OTHER GOL SOURCES, HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED
THAT SUCH REACTION OCCURRED IN MAZRA'.

3. COMMENT: GOL ARMY SOURCE IS INCLINED BELIEVE THAT
RPG ATTACK WAS PROVOCATION DESIGNED TO RE-IGNITE FIGHTING
IN BEIRUT AND THERE LITTLE DOUBT ELEMENTS EXIST HERE WHICH
WOULD WELCOME RENEWED CLASHES AND CHAOS AND INSTABILITY
WHICH ATTEND THEM. WHAT IS CLEAR FROM INCIDENT AND FIR-
ING, AS WELL AS RUMORS FOLLOWING IT, IS FRAGILE NATURE OF
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LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION. WHILE SECURITY FORCES HAVE
DEMONSTRATED READINESS AND CAPABILITY TO ACT WITH RELATIVE
SPEED AND DETERMINATION TO CONTAIN SITUATION (A WELCOME
SIGN), RESIDUAL TENSIONS, ANXIETY AND BITTERNESS IN BEIRUT
COMBINE WITH READILY AVAILABLE ARMS AND MUNITIONS TO SUS-
TAIN SITUATION PREGNANT WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREMEDITATED
AND/OR ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE, PLO
To: STATE CIA
Type: TE
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